

Tommy Nagle

Tommy Nagle had a life-long dream of owning a farm. But his dream took a detour through two full-time jobs, and plenty of hard work on the side, before he was able to buy his own farm.

The Nagles operate a beef and grain farm in Cambria County, harvesting approximately 775 acres of grain and managing 225 head of Angus cattle.

Nagle received a degree in accounting and after graduation worked for a bank. He also spent six years as the director of purchasing for a poultry company. But his early exposure to farm life led him to start his own farm.

"I was raised in a small town by both parents and took every opportunity, starting at the age of 4, to accompany my grandfather to the family farm where I would ride in the tractors and be anxious to help feed the animals," he said. "This sparked my love for farming and the desire to eventually own the operation I run today."

Nagle's parents owned 150 acres of land, and Tommy started buying cattle and equipment while working full-time. In 2010, following the birth of the couple's first child, Tommy became a full-time farmer.

Since 2008, Nagle's farm has grown from less than 200 acres of grain to planting 350 acres of corn, and additional acres of soybeans, barley and hay. His cattle numbers have grown to 225 head from 45 cows in 2008.

Most of the corn produced by the farm is sold to the Clearfield ethanol plant, while the cattle is sold directly of Cargill.

Nagle's future goals include expanding the farm to 3,000 acres and 250 brood cows, while continuing to improve cattle quality.

"Profitability is the first way we measure the operation, without being profitable the business would fail," he said. "I also evaluate the improvement of the quality of beef we produce."

Nagle has served as vice president of the Cambria County Farm Bureau and has also chaired their policy development committee.

The Nagles have two children and are expecting a third child in May.